

Petition

To The Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS

Universities are integral to our society because they:

- Create resilient, affordable communities and stimulate local, regional and provincial economies.
- Benefit all Ontarians, regardless of whether they have attended university.
- Drive innovation and research to address the needs of Ontarians.
- Train the talent needed for Ontario's growth industries.

Ontario's universities have been undervalued and chronically underfunded for over a decade and currently have the lowest level of post-secondary education funding across Canada. In 2022-2023, Ontario's funding per (full-time equivalent) domestic university student was \$10,246. This is over \$6,500 less than the Canadian average of \$16,789, according to the *Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations*. Recent provincial funding increases to the postsecondary sector do not meet the level recommended by the province's own *Blue-Ribbon Panel on Postsecondary Education Financial Sustainability*. Moreover, the *Council of Ontario Universities* projects that over half of Ontario's universities project a deficit in 2025-2026. The ongoing austerity measures driven by this dire financial situation in Ontario's universities are severely reducing the quantity and quality of educational opportunities for Ontario's young people, stifling research productivity and innovation, causing direct and indirect job losses, and downgrading Ontario's competitiveness and reputation. We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

To invest in Ontario's future by boosting Ontario's universities' base operating funds by 11.75% annually for a five-year period to bring Ontario close to the Canadian average.

Name of Ontario Resident (print first and last name)	Address of Ontario Residence (print street address, city, postal code)	Signature
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		